

The Vassalboro Public Library is a dedicated hub of information and learning for our community. The library is also a developing community space where you can gather for meetings with friends, study, or remote work. On behalf of the Vassalboro Library and its trustees I am happy to report we have had a successful year growing and developing programming and library services. In the past year, with covid no longer a complete overwhelming factor, we were again able to hold monthly programs. Please check the new website vassalboro.lib.me.us/ for an updated list of all the programs we are offering.

In January 2022 we (library) closed for three weeks to help maximize the inside gathering space. In the process the children's section was moved to the front of the library with a large welcoming area used by families to spread out, gather and play using library STEM kits and educational toys. This has resulted in an increase in young library users and families and our patron numbers have grown as a result. Our hours also increased in September and we are now open for 32 service hours a week. Monday 12-6, Tuesday 12-6, Wednesday 10-6, Thursday closed, Friday 12-6, Saturday 10-4.

Next, I would like to share a list of the programs the library sponsored in 2022:

- Twice monthly STEAM programs utilized by area home-school groups.
- Weekly Storytime's for area preschoolers.
- Monthly hands-on programs with library trustees and staff, and Game Days (staff will play!) every Friday afternoon.
- In May 2022 the library worked with local partners and the VCS librarian to organize a field trip for 4th and 5th grade students from Vassalboro and China to learn about alewives. Thank you to the Mill, VHS, VCS, Maine Rivers, Nate Gray and all local community members and landowners for making this happen.
- Speaker and author events for adults including Pamela Cummings, Andrea Lani, Linda Harrell, Betty Culley, Tim Caverly, and Dale Potter Clark.
- Library Summer Reading Program – Bikes for Books - resulted in 64 signups, 1622 hours of reading time, and the award of 12 bicycles to deserving readers. The local Masonic lodge sponsored the purchase of these bikes.

- Well attended summer reading programs from Northern Star Planetarium, Chewonki, and the Frogtown Mountain Puppeteers.
- A monthly series of LC Bates Museum natural history enrichment programs for homeschoolers. We also sponsored this group to visit four classrooms at the VCS library in November.
- Mad Science of Maine visited our homeschool groups and also held a school-wide assembly at Vassalboro Community School. We are working with the school administration and PTO to offer more events in the future.
- A Career Consultant from the Maine Career Center visits twice monthly to offer job search and career change services. He can be reached for in person meetings to accommodate your schedule.

We have also completed the onboarding process of partnership with the National Digital Equity Center (NDEC) to provide free monthly technology training. We encourage anyone who is interested to attend. If you are interested but the times for the classes don't work please reach out to me personally and I can help.

I will keep my report brief here and not share specific library numbers from last year. However, if you have interest in that data come to the library and find me, I will be happy to share! I will tell you with all certainty that our library visits, circulation numbers, and program participation numbers have all gone up over the past year. We have seen many outside groups hold meetings at the library including a knit group, philosophy club, Rec Committee, student/tutor groups, and a very recent Dungeons and Dragons group. This means our numbers next year will be even higher! I have shared accurate library use data with the Town Manager and Select Board and have advocated on the library's behalf at Town Meetings. If you have visited the library and/or attended a program and have liked what you have seen and experienced please reach out to the new Town Manager and Select board. It means so much to us to have that support communicated to the Town as the library keeps growing.

Finally, I will end this report with our thanks. Two large altruistic donations (project specific grants) were received at the library in the past year. These local

supporters voiced their trust and support for what they see are positive and welcome changes within the library and in its utilization of services. Thank you to these generous community members! I also need to publicly thank some special library volunteers and supporters in no particular order. Thank you to: Lore Ferguson, Irene Forster, Anna Granquist, Beth and Olivia Hatch, Charlie Hartman, Jan Clowes, Sarah Phillips, Susan Kiralis, Teri Wadding, Cameron Brown, Karen Hatch and the Rec committee, the Vassalboro Business Association, Fieldstone Gardens, Mary Sabins, and Ray Breton with a big thank you to Michael Poulin. Thank you to the Grange for allowing us to host so many programs there. Thank you to VCS and the PTO for working with us and for future collaborations. Thank you to the Library Trustees for really stepping up as the library has grown and recognizing its value. Susan Haines and Charles Ferguson thank you for your years of service as library trustees. I would also like to express thanks to the Vassalboro Select Board and new Town Manager for their support of the library.

In closing I would like to continue to welcome the community to visit your library. If you would like to get involved we could always use more dedicated volunteers. Please also consider joining the library trustees for our monthly meetings. Reach out to me personally if you would like to host a program or meet as a group during library hours. We would love to hear your ideas and are willing to work within and outside of our library space. The doors of the library are always open to you.

Respectfully,

Brian Stanley - Library Director

Vassalboro Library Board of Trustees